# CHAPTER 3

## MICROSOFT BASIC FUNCTIONS

The intrinsic functions provided by Microsoft BASIC are presented in this chapter. The functions may be called from any program without further definition.

Arguments to functions are always enclosed in parentheses. In the formats given for the functions in this chapter, the arguments have been abbreviated as follows:

   X and Y      Represent any numeric expressions

   I and J      Represent integer expressions

   X$ and Y$    Represent string expressions

If a floating point value is supplied where an integer is required, BASIC will round the fractional portion and use the resulting integer.

### NOTE

> With the Microsoft BASIC interpreter, only integer and single precision results are returned by functions. Double precision functions are supported only by the Microsoft BASIC Compiler.

## 3.1  ABS

Format:    ABS(X)

Action:    Returns the absolute value of the expression X.

Example:   PRINT ABS(7*(-5))
            35
           Ok

## 3.2  ASC

Format:    ASC(X$)

Action:    Returns a numerical value that is the ASCII code
           of  the  first character of the string X$.  (See
           Appendix D for ASCII codes.) If X$ is  null,  an
           "Illegal function call" error is returned.

Example:   10 X$ = "TEST"
           20 PRINT ASC(X$)
           RUN
            84
           Ok

           See  the  CHR$  function   for   ASCII-to-string
           conversion.

## 3.3  ATN

Format:    ATN(X)

Action:    Returns the arctangent of X in radians.   Result
           is in the range -pi/2 to pi/2.   The expression X
           may be any numeric type, but the  evaluation  of
           ATN is always performed in single precision.

Example:   10 INPUT X
           20 PRINT ATN(X)
           RUN
           ? 3
            1.24905
           Ok


## 3.4  CDBL

Format:    CDBL(X)

Action:    Converts X to a double precision number.

Example:   10 A = 454.67
           20 PRINT A;CDBL(A)
           RUN
            454.67   454.6700134277344
           Ok

## 3.5  CHR$

Format:     CHR$(I)

Action:     Returns a string whose one element has ASCII
            code I. (ASCII codes are listed in Appendix D.)
            CHR$ is commonly used to send a special
            character to the terminal. For instance, the
            BEL character could be sent (CHR$(7)) as a
            preface to an error message, or a form feed
            could be sent (CHR$(12)) to clear a terminal
            screen and return the cursor to the home
            position.

Example:    PRINT CHR$(66)
            B
            Ok
            See the ASC function for ASCII-to-numeric
            conversion.

## 3.6  CINT

Format:     CINT(X)

Action:     Converts X to an integer by rounding the
            fractional portion. If X is not in the range
            -32768 to 32767, an "Overflow" error occurs.

Example:    PRINT CINT(45.67)
             46
            Ok

            See the CDBL and CSNG functions for converting
            numbers to the double precision and single
            precision data type. See also the FIX and INT
            functions, both of which return integers.

## 3.7  COS

Format:     COS(X)

Action:     Returns the cosine of X in radians. The
            calculation of COS(X) is performed in single
            precision.

Example:    10 X = 2*COS(.4)
            20 PRINT X
            RUN
             1.84212
            Ok


## 3.8  CSNG

Format:     CSNG(X)

Action:     Converts X to a single precision number.

Example:    10 A# = 975.3421#
            20 PRINT A#; CSNG(A#)
            RUN
             975.3421  975.342
            Ok

            See the CINT and CDBL functions for converting
            numbers to the integer and double precision data
            types.

## 3.9  CVI, CVS, CVD

Format:     CVI(<2-byte string>)
            CVS(<4-byte string>)
            CVD(<8-byte string>)

Action:     Convert string values to numeric values.
            Numeric values that are read in from a random
            disk file must be converted from strings back
            into numbers.  CVI converts a 2-byte string to
            an integer.  CVS converts a 4-byte string to a
            single precision number.  CVD converts an 8-byte
            string to a double precision number.

Example:    .
            .
            .
            70 FIELD #1,4 AS N$, 12 AS B$, ...
            80 GET #1
            90 Y=CVS(N$)
            .
            .
            .

            See also MKI$, MKS$, MKD$, Section 3.25 and PART
            II,  Chapter 3, Microsoft BASIC Disk I/O, of the
            Microsoft BASIC User's Guide.


## 3.10  EOF

Format:     EOF(<file number>)

Action:     Returns -1 (true) if the end of a sequential
            file has been reached.  Use EOF to test for
            end-of-file while INPUTting, to avoid "Input
            past end" errors.

Example:    10 OPEN "I",1,"DATA"
            20 C=0
            30 IF EOF(1) THEN 100
            40 INPUT #1,M(C)
            50 C=C+1:GOTO 30
            .
            .
            .

3.11  **EXP**


Format:      EXP(X)

Action:      Returns e to the power of X.  X must be
             <=87.3365.  If EXP overflows, the "Overflow"
             error message is displayed, machine infinity
             with the appropriate sign is supplied as the
             result, and execution continues.

Example:     10 X = 5
             20 PRINT EXP (X-1)
             RUN
              54.5982
             Ok


3.12  **FIX**


Format:      FIX(X)

Action:      Returns the truncated integer part of X.  FIX(X)
             is equivalent to SGN(X)*INT(ABS(X)).  The major
             difference between FIX and INT is that FIX  does
             not return the next lower number for negative X.

Examples:    PRINT FIX(58.75)
              58
             Ok

             PRINT FIX(-58.75)
             -58
             Ok

## 3.13  FRE

Format:     FRE(0)
            FRE(X$)

Action:     Arguments to FRE are dummy arguments.  FRE
            returns  the number of bytes in memory not being
            used by BASIC.

            FRE("")  forces  a  garbage  collection  before
            returning  the  number  of  free  bytes.   BE
            PATIENT:  garbage collection may take 1 to 1-1/2
            minutes.   BASIC  will  not  initiate  garbage
            collection until all free memory has  been  used
            up.   Therefore, using FRE("") periodically will
            result  in  shorter  delays  for  each  garbage
            collection.

Example:    PRINT FRE(0)
             14542
            Ok

## 3.14  HEX$

Format:     HEX$(X)

Action:     Returns   a   string   which   represents   the
            hexadecimal value of the decimal argument.  X is
            rounded  to  an  integer   before   HEX$(X)   is
            evaluated.

Example:    10 INPUT X
            20 A$ = HEX$(X)
            30 PRINT X "DECIMAL IS " A$ " HEXADECIMAL"
            RUN
            ? 32
             32 DECIMAL IS 20 HEXADECIMAL
            Ok

            See the OCT$ function for octal conversion.

## 3.15  INKEY$

Format:     INKEY$

Action:     Returns either a one-character string containing
            a  character  read  from  the terminal or a null
            string  if  no  character  is  pending  at   the
            terminal.   No characters will be echoed and all
            characters are passed through  tto  the  program
            except   for  Control-C,  which  terminates  the
            program.  (With the Microsoft  BASIC  Compiler,
            Control-C   is   also   passed  through  to  the
            program.)

Example:    1000 ´TIMED INPUT SUBROUTINE
            1010 RESPONSE$=""
            1020 FOR I%=1 TO TIMELIMIT%
            1030 A$=INKEY$ : IF LEN(A$)=0 THEN 1060
            1040 IF ASC(A$)=13 THEN TIMEOUT%=0 : RETURN
            1050 RESPONSE$=RESPONSE$+A$
            1060 NEXT I%
            1070 TIMEOUT%=1 : RETURN


## 3.16  INP

Format:     INP(I)

Action:     Returns the byte read from port I.  I must be in
            the  range  0  to 255.  INP is the complementary
            function to the OUT statement, Section 2.47.

Example:    100 A=INP(255)

3.17  INPUT$

Format:     INPUT$(X[,[#]Y])

Action:     Returns a string of X characters, read from  the
            terminal or from file number Y.  If the terminal
            is used for input, no characters will be  echoed
            and  all  control  characters are passed through
            except Control-C, which is used to interrupt the
            execution of the INPUT$ function.

Example 1:  5 ´LIST THE CONTENTS OF A SEQUENTIAL FILE IN
            HEXADECIMAL
            10 OPEN"I",1,"DATA"
            20 IF EOF(1) THEN 50
            30 PRINT HEX$(ASC(INPUT$(1,#1)));
            40 GOTO 20
            50 PRINT
            60 END

Example 2:     .
               .
               .
            100 PRINT "TYPE P TO PROCEED OR S TO STOP"
            110 X$=INPUT$(1)
            120 IF X$="P" THEN 500
            130 IF X$="S" THEN 700 ELSE 100
               .
               .
               .

## 3.18  INSTR

Format:     INSTR([I,]X$,Y$)

Action:     Searches for the first occurrence of  string  Y$
            in  X$  and  returns  the  position at which the
            match is found.   Optional   offset   I  sets  the
            position  for starting the search.   I must be in
            the range 1 to 255.  If I>LEN(X$) or  if  X$  is
            null  or if Y$ cannot be found, INSTR returns 0.
            If Y$ is null, INSTR returns I or 1.   X$ and  Y$
            may  be  string variables, string expressions or
            string literals.

Example:    10 X$ = "ABCDEB"
            20 Y$ = "B"
            30 PRINT INSTR(X$,Y$);INSTR(4,X$,Y$)
            RUN
             2  6
            Ok

NOTE:       If I=0 is  specified,  error  message  "ILLEGAL
            ARGUMENT IN <line number>" will be returned.

### 3.19  INT

Format:    INT(X)

Action:    Returns the largest integer <=X.

Examples:  PRINT INT(99.89)
            99
           Ok

           PRINT INT(-12.11)
           -13
           Ok

           See the FIX and CINT functions which also return
           integer values.

### 3.20  LEFT$

Format:    LEFT$(X$,I)

Action:    Returns a string comprised of the leftmost I
           characters of X$. I must be in the range 0 to
           255. If I is greater than LEN(X$), the entire
           string (X$) will be returned. If I=0, the null
           string (length zero) is returned.

Example:   10 A$ = "BASIC"
           20 B$ = LEFT$(A$,5)
           30 PRINT B$
           BASIC
           Ok

           Also see the MID$ and RIGHT$ functions.

3.21  LEN

Format:     LEN(X$)

Action:     Returns  the  number  of  characters  in  X$.
            Non-printing characters and blanks are counted.

Example:    10 X$ = "PORTLAND, OREGON"
            20 PRINT LEN(X$)
             16
            Ok


3.22  LOC

Format:     LOC(<file number>)

Action:     With random disk files, LOC returns  the  record
            number  just  read or written from a GET or PUT.
            If the file was opened but no disk I/O has  been
            performed yet, LOC returns a 0.  With sequential
            files, LOC returns the number  of  sectors  (128
            byte  blocks)  read  from or written to the file
            since it was OPENed.

Example:    200 IF LOC(1)>50 THEN STOP

3.23  LOG


Format:     LOG(X)

Action:     Returns the natural logarithm of X.   X   must   be
            greater than zero.

Example:    PRINT LOG(45/7)
             1.86075
            Ok


3.24  LPOS


Format:     LPOS(X)

Action:     Returns the current position of the line printer
            print head within the line printer buffer.  Does
            not necessarily give the  physical  position  of
            the print head.  X is a dummy argument.

Example:    100 IF LPOS(X)>60 THEN LPRINT CHR$(13)

3.25  MID$


Format:     MID$(X$,I[,J])

Action:     Returns a string of length J characters from  X$
            beginning  with the Ith character.  I and J must
            be in the range 1 to 255.  If J is omitted or if
            there  are  fewer than J characters to the right
            of the Ith character, all  rightmost  characters
            beginning  with  the Ith character are returned.
            If I>LEN(X$), MID$ returns a null string.

Example:    LIST
            10 A$="GOOD "
            20 B$="MORNING EVENING AFTERNOON"
            30 PRINT A$;MID$(B$,9,7)
            Ok
            RUN
            GOOD EVENING
            Ok

            Also see the LEFT$ and RIGHT$ functions.

NOTE:       If I=0 is  specified,  error  message  "ILLEGAL
            ARGUMENT IN <line number>" will be returned.



3.26  MKI$, MKS$, MKD$


Format:     MKI$(<integer expression>)
            MKS$(<single precision expression>)
            MKD$(<double precision expression>)

Action:     Convert numeric values to  string  values.   Any
            numeric  value  that  is placed in a random file
            buffer with an LSET or RSET  statement  must  be
            converted to a string.  MKI$ converts an integer
            to a 2-byte  string.   MKS$  converts  a  single
            precision  number  to  a  4-byte  string.    MKD$
            converts a double precision number to an  8-byte
            string.

Example:    90 AMT=(K+T)
            100 FIELD #1, 8 AS D$, 20 AS N$
            110 LSET D$ = MKS$(AMT)
            120 LSET N$ = A$
            130 PUT #1
               .
               .

            See  also  CVI,  CVS,  CVD,  Section   3.9   and
            Microsoft BASIC Disk I/O, in the Microsoft BASIC
            User's Guide.

3.27  OCT$


Format:     OCT$(X)

Action:     Returns  a  string  which  represents  the  octal
            value  of the decimal argument.  X is rounded to
            an integer before OCT$(X) is evaluated.

Example:    PRINT OCT$(24)
             30
            Ok

            See    the    HEX$    function    for    hexadecimal
            conversion.


3.28  PEEK


Format:     PEEK(I)

Action:     Returns the byte (decimal integer in the range 0
            to  255) read from memory location I.  I must be
            in  the  range  0  to  65536.    PEEK   is   the
            complementary  function  to  the POKE statement,
            Section 2.48.

Example:    A=PEEK(&H5A00)

3.29  <u>POS</u>

Format:     POS(I)

Action:     Returns  the  current  cursor   position.    The
            leftmost position is 1.  X is a dummy argument.

Example:    IF POS(X)>60 THEN PRINT CHR$(13)

            Also see the LPOS function.


3.30  <u>RIGHT$</u>

Format:     RIGHT$(X$,I)

Action:     Returns the rightmost I characters of string X$.
            If  I=LEN(X$),  returns  X$.   If  I=0, the null
            string (length zero) is returned.

Example:    10 A$="DISK BASIC"
            20 PRINT RIGHT$(A$,8)
            RUN
            BASIC
            Ok

            Also see the MID$ and LEFT$ functions.

## 3.31 RND

Format:     RND[(X)]

Action:     Returns a random number between 0 and 1. The
            same sequence of random numbers is generated
            each time the program is RUN unless the random
            number generator is reseeded (see RANDOMIZE,
            Section 2.53). However, X<0 always restarts the
            same sequence for any given X.

            X>0 or X omitted generates the next random
            number in the sequence. X=0 repeats the last
            number generated.

Example:    10 FOR I=1 TO 5
            20 PRINT INT(RND*100);
            30 NEXT
            RUN
             24  30  31  51  5
            Ok

## 3.32 SGN

Format:     SGN(X)

Action:     If X>0, SGN(X) returns 1.
            If X=0, SGN(X) returns 0.
            If X<0, SGN(X) returns -1.

Example:    ON SGN(X)+2 GOTO 100,200,300 branches to 100 if
            X is negative, 200 if X is 0 and 300 if X is
            positive.

## 3.33  SIN

Format:     SIN(X)

Action:     Returns the sine of X  in  radians.   SIN(X)  is
            calculated         in       single      precision.
            COS(X)=SIN(X+3.14159/2).

Example:    PRINT SIN(1.5)
            .997495
            Ok


## 3.34  SPACE$

Format:     SPACE$(X)

Action:     Returns a string of spaces  of  length  X.   The
            expression  X  is rounded to an integer and must
            be in the range 0 to 255.

Example:    10 FOR I = 1 TO 5
            20 X$ = SPACE$(I)
            30 PRINT X$;I
            40 NEXT I
            RUN
              1
                2
                 3
                  4
                   5
            Ok

            Also see the SPC function.

## 3.35  SPC

Format:     SPC(I)

Action:     Prints I blanks on the terminal.  SPC  may  only
            be  used  with  PRINT  and LPRINT statements.  I
            must be in the range 0 to 255.  A´;´ is  assumed
            to follow the SPC(I) command.

Example:    PRINT "OVER" SPC(15) "THERE"
            OVER               THERE
            Ok

            Also see the SPACE$ function.

## 3.36  SQR

Format:     SQR(X)

Action:     Returns the square root of X.  X must be >=0.

Example:    10 FOR X = 10 TO 25 STEP 5
            20 PRINT X, SQR(X)
            30 NEXT
            RUN
             10              3.16228
             15              3.87298
             20              4.47214
             25              5
            Ok

## 3.37  STR$

Format:    STR$(X)

Action:    Returns a string representation of the value  of
           X.

Example:   5 REM ARITHMETIC FOR KIDS
           10 INPUT "TYPE A NUMBER";N
           20 ON LEN(STR$(N)) GOSUB 30,100,200,300,400,500
                .
                .
                .

           Also see the VAL function.

## 3.38  STRING$

Formats:   STRING$(I,J)
           STRING$(I,X$)

Action:    Returns a string of length  I  whose  characters
           all  have ASCII code J or the first character of
           X$.

Example:   10 X$ = STRING$(10,45)
           20 PRINT X$ "MONTHLY REPORT" X$
           RUN
           ----------MONTHLY REPORT----------
           Ok

3.39   TAB

Format:    TAB(I)

Action:    Spaces to position I on the  terminal.   If  the
           current  print  position is already beyond space
           I, TAB goes to that position on the  next  line.
           Space  1  is  the  leftmost  position,  and  the
           rightmost position is the width  minus  one.    I
           must  be in the range 1 to 255.  TAB may only be
           used in PRINT and LPRINT statements.

Example:   10 PRINT "NAME" TAB(25) "AMOUNT" : PRINT
           20 READ A$,B$
           30 PRINT A$ TAB(25) B$
           40 DATA "G. T. JONES","$25.00"
           RUN
           NAME                        AMOUNT

           G. T. JONES                 $25.00
           Ok


3.40   TAN

Format:    TAN(X)

Action:    Returns the tangent of X in radians.  TAN(X)  is
           calculated  in  single  precision.   If  TAN
           overflows,  the  "Overflow"  error  message   is
           displayed, machine infinity with the appropriate
           sign is supplied as the  result,  and  execution
           continues.

Example:   10 Y = Q*TAN(X)/2

## 3.41  USR

Format :    USR[<digit>](X)

Action:     Calls the user's assembly language subroutine
            with the argument X. <digit> is in the range 0
            to 9 and corresponds to the digit supplied with
            the DEF USR statement for that routine. If
            <digit> is omitted, USR0 is assumed. See
            Assembly Language Subroutines, in the Microsoft
            BASIC User's Guide.

Example:    40 B = T*SIN(Y)
            50 C = USR(B/2)
            60 D = USR(B/3)
               .
               .
               .


## 3.42  VAL

Format:     VAL(X$)

Action:     Returns the numerical value of string  X$.   The
            VAL  function  also strips leading blanks, tabs,
            and linefeeds from  the  argument  string.   For
            example,

            VAL(" -3)

            returns -3.

Example:    10 READ NAME$,CITY$,STATE$,ZIP$
            20 IF VAL(ZIP$)<90000 OR VAL(ZIP$)>96699 THEN
            PRINT NAME$ TAB(25) "OUT OF STATE"
            30 IF VAL(ZIP$)>=90801 AND VAL(ZIP$)<=90815 THEN
            PRINT NAME$ TAB(25) "LONG BEACH"
               .
               .
               .


            See the STR$  function  for  numeric  to  string
            conversion.

3.43  <u>VARPTR</u>

Format 1:   VARPTR(<variable name>)

Format 2:   VARPTR(#<file number>)

Action:     Format 1:  Returns the address of the first byte
            of data identified with <variable name>. A
            value must be assigned to <variable name> prior
            to execution of VARPTR. Otherwise an "Illegal
            function call" error results. Any type variable
            name may be used (numeric, string, array), and
            the address returned will be an integer in the
            range 32767 to -32768.  If a negative address is
            returned, add it to 65536 to obtain the actual
            address.

            VARPTR is usually used to obtain the address of
            a variable or array so it may be passed to an
            assembly language subroutine. A function call
            of the form VARPTR(A(0)) is usually specified
            when passing an array, so that the
            lowest-addressed element of the array is
            returned.

NOTE:       All simple variables should be assigned before
            calling VARPTR for an array, because the
            addresses of the arrays change whenever a new
            simple variable is assigned.

            Format 2:  For sequential files, returns the
            starting address of the disk I/O buffer assigned
            to <file number>. For random files, returns the
            address of the FIELD buffer assigned to <file
            number>.

Example:    100 X=USR(VARPTR(Y))

Summary of Error Codes and Error Messages

| Code | Number | Message |
|------|--------|---------|
| NF | 1 | NEXT without FOR<br>A variable in a NEXT statement does not correspond to any previously executed, unmatched FOR statement variable. |
| SN | 2 | Syntax error<br>A line is encountered that contains some incorrect sequence of characters (such as unmatched parenthesis, misspelled command or statement, incorrect punctuation, etc.). |
| RG | 3 | Return without GOSUB<br>A RETURN statement is encountered for which there is no previous, unmatched GOSUB statement. |
| OD | 4 | Out of data<br>A READ statement is executed when there are no DATA statements with unread data remaining in the program. |
| FC | 5 | Illegal function call<br>A parameter that is out of range is passed to a math or string function. An FC error may also occur as the result of: |

1.  a negative or unreasonably large subscript

2.  a negative or zero argument with LOG

3.  a negative argument to SQR

4.  a negative mantissa with a non-integer exponent

        5.  a call to a USR function for which the starting address has not yet been given

        6.  an improper argument to MID$, LEFT$, RIGHT$, INP, OUT, WAIT, PEEK, POKE, TAB, SPC, STRING$, SPACE$, INSTR, or ON...GOTO.

**OV     6    Overflow**
The result of a calculation is too large to be represented in Microsoft BASIC's number format. If underflow occurs, the result is zero and execution continues without an error.

**OM     7    Out of memory**
A program is too large, has too many FOR loops or GOSUBs, too many variables, or expressions that are too complicated.

**UL     8    Undefined line**
A line reference in a GOTO, GOSUB, IF...THEN...ELSE or DELETE is to a nonexistent line.

**BS     9    Subscript out of range**
An array element is referenced either with a subscript that is outside the dimensions of the array, or with the wrong number of subscripts.

**DD    10    Redimensioned array**
Two DIM statements are given for the same array, or a DIM statement is given for an array after the default dimension of 10 has been established for that array.

**/0    11    Division by zero**
A division by zero is encountered in an expression, or the operation of involution results in zero being raised to a negative power. Machine infinity with the sign of the numerator is supplied as the result of the division, or positive machine infinity is supplied as the result of the involution, and execution continues.

**ID    12    Illegal direct**
A statement that is illegal in direct mode is entered as a direct mode command.

**TM    13    Type mismatch**
A string variable name is assigned a numeric value or vice versa; a function that expects a numeric argument is given a string argument

or vice versa.

OS     14     Out of string space
String variables have caused BASIC to exceed
the amount of free memory remaining. BASIC
will allocate string space dynamically, until
it runs out of memory.

LS     15     String too long
An attempt is made to create a string more
than 255 characters long.

ST     16     String formula too complex
A string expression is too long or too
complex. The expression should be broken
into smaller expressions.

CN     17     Can´t continue
An attempt is made to continue a program
that:

1. has halted due to an error,

2. has been modified during a break in
execution, or

3. does not exist.

UF     18     Undefined user function
A USR function is called before the function
definition (DEF statement) is given.

19     No RESUME
An error trapping routine is entered but
contains no RESUME statement.

20     RESUME without error
A RESUME statement is encountered before an
error trapping routine is entered.

21     Unprintable error
An error message is not available for the
error condition which exists. This is
usually caused by an ERROR with an undefined
error code.

22     Missing operand
An expression contains an operator with no
operand following it.

23     Line buffer overflow
An attempt is made to input a line that has
too many characters.

26     FOR without NEXT

A FOR was encountered without a matching NEXT.

29    WHILE without WEND
      A WHILE statement does not have a matching WEND.

30    WEND without WHILE
      A WEND was encountered without a matching WHILE.


Disk Errors

50    Field overflow
      A FIELD statement is attempting to allocate more bytes than were specified for the record length of a random file.

51    Internal error
      An internal malfunction has occurred in Microsoft BASIC. Report to Microsoft the conditions under which the message appeared.

52    Bad file number
      A statement or command references a file with a file number that is not OPEN or is out of the range of file numbers specified at initialization.

53    File not found
      A LOAD, KILL or OPEN statement references a file that does not exist on the current disk.

54    Bad file mode
      An attempt is made to use PUT, GET, or LOF with a sequential file, to LOAD a random file or to execute an OPEN with a file mode other than I, O, or R.

55    File already open
      A sequential output mode OPEN is issued for a file that is already open; or a KILL is given for a file that is open.

57    Disk I/O error
      An I/O error occurred on a disk I/O operation. It is a fatal error, i.e., the operating system cannot recover from the error.

61    Disk Full

# Appendix B

## DISPLAY DRIVER SPECIFICATIONS

### INTRODUCTION <span style="float:right">B.1</span>

The software in the BIOS display interface receives ASCII characters and either displays them or uses them for display control. Characters in the ASCII control set (hex 00 through hex 1F and hex 7F) are control characters and are not displayed (see the ESC 8 exception below). These characters may, however, affect the display. Most of the control characters act independently. But for some actions, more than one control character is required to specify the action. This is done by using the ASCII escape code (hex 1B) followed by one or more characters. The control characters and the escape sequences are described in B.2 and B.3.

The display controls are accessed from high-level languages by using the PRINT or equivalent statements. For example, in MS-BASIC—

**PRINT CHR$(27)+CHR$(112)**

turns on reverse video.

NOTE: Decimal 27 equals hex 1B, which is Escape, and decimal 112 is hex 70.

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### CONTROL CHARACTERS <span style="float:right">B.2</span>

▶ Bell (ALT-G, hex 07): This is not really a display control character. It sends the CODEC a series of signals that cause it to make the sound of a bell.

► Backspace (ALT-H, hex 08): Moves the cursor one column to the left. If cursor is at column 1, it moves to column 80 of the previous row (unless cursor is at column 1, row 1 in which case it moves to column 80, row 1).

► Horizontal Tab (ALT-I, hex 09): Moves the cursor to the next tab stop. Tab stops are fixed at columns 9, 17, 25, 33, 41, 49, 57, 65, and 72 through 80. If the cursor is at column 80, it remains there.

► Line Feed (ALT-J, hex 0A): Moves the cursor down one row. If cursor is at row 24, then the display scrolls up one row. (The Line feed can also be treated as a Return. See ESC x9.)

► Carriage Return (ALT-M, hex 0D): Moves the cursor to column 1 of the current row. (Return can also be treated as a Line feed. See ESC x8.)

► Shift In (ALT-N, hex 0E): Shifts to character set 1 (G1).

► Shift Out (ALT-0, hex 0F): Shifts to character set 0 (G0).

## B.3 ESCAPE SEQUENCES

### Table B-1: Cursor Functions

| ESCAPE SEQUENCE | ASCII CODE GENERATED (HEXADECIMAL) | SEQUENCE DEFINITION |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Esc-A | 1B, 41 | Moves the cursor up one line. |
| Esc-B | 1B, 42 | Moves the cursor down one line without changing columns. |
| Esc-C | 1B, 43 | Moves the cursor one character position to the right. |

**continued**

| ESCAPE SEQUENCE | ASCII CODE GENERATED (HEXADECIMAL) | SEQUENCE DEFINITION |
|---|---|---|
| Esc-D | 1B, 44 | Moves the cursor one character position to the left. |
| Esc-H | 1B, 48 | Moves the cursor to the home position (upper-left corner of screen). |
| Esc-I | 1B, 49 | Moves the cursor up one line, and stays in the same column. |
| Esc-n | 1B, 6E | Reports the cursor position. |
| Esc-j | 1B, 6A | The display driver saves the cursor position. |
| Esc-k | 1B, 6B | Returns the cursor to the previously-saved cursor position. |
| Esc-Y[l][c] | 1B, 59 | Moves the cursor via direct cursor addressing, where l is the line number (hex) and c is the column number (hex). The first line and the left column are both 20 hex (the smallest value of the printing characters) and increase from there. Since the lines are numbered from 1 to 19 hex (from top to bottom) and the columns from 1 to 50 hex (from left to right), you must add the proper line and column numbers to 1F. No movement occurs if l and/or c are invalid. |

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## Table B-2: Editing Functions

| ESCAPE SEQUENCE | ASCII CODE GENERATED (HEXADECIMAL) | SEQUENCE DEFINITION |
|---|---|---|
| Esc-E | 1B, 45 | Erases the entire screen. |
| Esc-b | 1B, 62 | Erases from the start of the screen up to (and including) the cursor position. |
| Esc-J | 1B, 4A | Erases from the cursor position to the end of the page. |
| Esc-l | 1B, 6C | Erases entire line. |
| Esc-o | 1B, 6F | Erases from the beginning of line up to (and including) the cursor position. |
| Esc-K | 1B, 4B | Erases from cursor position to the end of the line. |
| Esc-L | 1B, 4C | Inserts a blank line. The current line and all following lines scroll down one line. The cursor moves to the beginning of the blank line. |
| Esc-M | 1B, 4D | Moves cursor to beginning of line, deletes the line, and then scrolls all following lines up one line. A blank line is inserted at line 24. |
| Esc-N | 1B, 4E | Deletes character at cursor position and shifts the rest of the line one character position to the left. |
| Esc-@ | 1B, 40 | Enters the Insert Character mode. This lets you insert characters into screen text. As each new character is inserted, the character at the end of the line is lost. |
| Esc-O | 1B, 4F | Exits Insert Character mode. |

## Table B-3:  Configuration Functions

| ESCAPE SEQUENCE | ASCII CODE GENERATED (HEXADECIMAL) | SEQUENCE DEFINITION |
|---|---|---|
| Esc-x[Ps] | 1B, 78 | Sets mode(s) as follows: |

| Ps | Mode |
|---|---|
| 1 | Enable 25th line. |
| 3 | Hold screen mode on. |
| 4 | Use block cursor. |
| 5 | Cursor off. |
| 8 | Automatic line feed after a Return. |
| 9 | Automatic Return after a line feed. |
| A | Increase audio volume. |
| B | Increase CRT brightness. |
| C | Increase CRT contrast. |

| ESCAPE SEQUENCE | ASCII CODE GENERATED (HEXADECIMAL) | SEQUENCE DEFINITION |
|---|---|---|
| Esc-y[Ps] | 1B, 79 | Resets mode(s) as follows: |

| Ps | Mode |
|---|---|
| 1 | Disable 25th line. |
| 3 | Hold screen mode off. |
| 4 | Use underscore cursor. |
| 5 | Cursor on. |
| 8 | No auto line feed. |
| 9 | No auto Return. |
| A | Decrease audio volume. |
| B | Decrease CRT brightness. |
| C | Decrease CRT contrast. |

| ESCAPE SEQUENCE | ASCII CODE GENERATED (HEXADECIMAL) | SEQUENCE DEFINITION |
|---|---|---|
| Esc-^ | 1B, 5E | Toggle hold mode. |
| Esc-[ | 1B, 5B | Set hold mode. |
| Esc-\ | 1B, 5C | Clear hold mode. |
| Esc-\| | 1B, 7C | Activate user-defined console (T.B.A.). |

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## Table B-4: Operation Mode Functions

| ESCAPE SEQUENCE | ASCII CODE GENERATED (HEXADECIMAL) | SEQUENCE DEFINITION |
|---|---|---|
| Esc-p | 1B, 70 | Enters reverse video mode. |
| Esc-q | 1B, 71 | Exits reverse video mode. |

## Table B-5: Special Functions

| ESCAPE SEQUENCE | ASCII CODE GENERATED (HEXADECIMAL) | SEQUENCE DEFINITION |
|---|---|---|
| Esc-} | 1B, 7D | Disables the keyboard. |
| Esc-{ | 1B, 7B | Enables the keyboard. |
| Esc-v | 1B, 76 | Enables wrap-around at the end of the line. |
| Esc-w | 1B, 77 | Disables wrap-around at the end of the line. |
| Esc-z | 1B, 7A | Resets terminal to power-on configuration. |
| Esc-$ | 1B, 24 | Transmits the character at cursor location. |
| Esc-] | 1B, 5D | Transmits the 25th line. |
| Esc-# | 1B, 23 | Transmits the page. |
| Esc-( | 1B, 28 | Sets high intensity. |
| Esc-) | 1B, 29 | Sets low intensity. |
| Esc-+ | 1B, 2B | Clears the foreground. (High-intensity displayed characters.) |
| Esc-Z | 1B, 5A | Identifies display as emulating VT52 (the terminal responds with an Esc-K). |
| Esc-0 | 1B, 30 | Sets the underline mode. |

**continued**

| ESCAPE SEQUENCE | ASCII CODE GENERATED (HEXADECIMAL) | SEQUENCE DEFINITION |
|---|---|---|
| Esc-1 | 1B, 31 | Resets the underline mode. |
| Esc-2 | 1B, 32 | Enables cursor blink. |
| Esc-3 | 1B, 33 | Disables cursor blink. |
| Esc-8 | 1B, 38 | Sets the test (literally) mode for the next single character. |
| Esc-i[n] | 1B, 69 | Displays the system sign-on banner, as follows (n is the ASCII numeric character): |

| n | Display |
|---|---|
| 0 | Entire banner. |
| 1 | Company logo only. |
| 2 | Product name only. |
| 3 | Configuration information only. |

## 132-COLUMN UTILITY

**B.4**

### Description

The 132-column utility (132C) provides a simulated 132-column display in the 800-dot by 400-line HIRES display mode of your computer. The characters are displayed in a 5-by-7 dot matrix in a 6-by-10 cell to give the 132-column display. In addition, a standard display of 80 columns by 25 lines is simulated with an 8-by-11 dot matrix in a 10-by-16 cell. The 132 column mode is enabled when the normal BIOS display interface recognizes the appropriate escape sequence.

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### Installation

Enter this sequence to activate the 132 Column feature for use with an application program:

**A>132C<cr>**
**A>132C-ON<cr>**

These commands can be combined in a Batch (.BAT) file, if you like.

The 132C feature is turned off with the command:

**A>132C-OFF <cr>**

The 132C program installs itself into the BIOS. The program requires about 50K of memory: the 800-by-400-line HIRES screen requires 40K; the character sets and code use the rest. The 132C program copies itself into the lowest 64K block of memory and removes its 50K required bytes from the system until you press the reset button or turn off your computer.

You can access 132C after installing an application program if you send an ESC | (1B 7C) to the display interface. This is done from MS-BASIC with:

**PRINT CHR$(27)+CHR$(124)**

From MS-BASIC, 132C is turned off with an ESC z (1B 7A):

**PRINT CHR$(27)+"z"**

The display control sequences described above are also available in 132C mode.

When you've finished and saved your work, press the reset button to release the memory allocated to 132C and return to normal character mode.

## ASCII Character Codes

| Dec | Hex | CHR | Dec | Hex | CHR | Dec | Hex | CHR |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 000 | 00H | NUL | 043 | 2BH | + | 086 | 56H | V |
| 001 | 01H | SOH | 044 | 2CH | , | 087 | 57H | W |
| 002 | 02H | STX | 045 | 2DH | − | 088 | 58H | X |
| 003 | 03H | ETX | 046 | 2EH | . | 089 | 59H | Y |
| 004 | 04H | EOT | 047 | 2FH | / | 090 | 5AH | Z |
| 005 | 05H | ENQ | 048 | 30H | 0 | 091 | 5BH | [ |
| 006 | 06H | ACK | 049 | 31H | 1 | 092 | 5CH | \ |
| 007 | 07H | BEL | 050 | 32H | 2 | 093 | 5DH | ] |
| 008 | 08H | BS | 051 | 33H | 3 | 094 | 5EH | ^ |
| 009 | 09H | HT | 052 | 34H | 4 | 095 | 5FH |  |
| 010 | 0AH | LF | 053 | 35H | 5 | 096 | 60H | ‾ |
| 011 | 0BH | VT | 054 | 36H | 6 | 097 | 61H | a |
| 012 | 0CH | FF | 055 | 37H | 7 | 098 | 62H | b |
| 013 | 0DH | CR | 056 | 38H | 8 | 099 | 63H | c |
| 014 | 0EH | SO | 057 | 39H | 9 | 100 | 64H | d |
| 015 | 0FH | SI | 058 | 3AH | : | 101 | 65H | e |
| 016 | 10H | DLE | 059 | 3BH | ; | 102 | 66H | f |
| 017 | 11H | DC1 | 060 | 3CH | < | 103 | 67H | g |
| 018 | 12H | DC2 | 061 | 3DH | = | 104 | 68H | h |
| 019 | 13H | DC3 | 062 | 3EH | > | 105 | 69H | i |
| 020 | 14H | DC4 | 063 | 3FH | ? | 106 | 6AH | j |
| 021 | 15H | NAK | 064 | 40H | @ | 107 | 6BH | k |
| 022 | 16H | SYN | 065 | 41H | A | 108 | 6CH | l |
| 023 | 17H | ETB | 066 | 42H | B | 109 | 6DH | m |
| 024 | 18H | CAN | 067 | 43H | C | 110 | 6EH | n |
| 025 | 19H | EM | 068 | 44H | D | 111 | 6FH | o |
| 026 | 1AH | SUB | 069 | 45H | E | 112 | 70H | p |
| 027 | 1BH | ESCAPE | 070 | 46H | F | 113 | 71H | q |
| 028 | 1CH | FS | 071 | 47H | G | 114 | 72H | r |
| 029 | 1DH | GS | 072 | 48H | H | 115 | 73H | s |
| 030 | 1EH | RS | 073 | 49H | I | 116 | 74H | t |
| 031 | 1FH | US | 074 | 4AH | J | 117 | 75H | u |
| 032 | 20H | SPACE | 075 | 4BH | K | 118 | 76H | v |
| 033 | 21H | ! | 076 | 4CH | L | 119 | 77H | w |
| 034 | 22H | " | 077 | 4DH | M | 120 | 78H | x |
| 035 | 23H | # | 078 | 4EH | N | 121 | 79H | y |
| 036 | 24H | $ | 079 | 4FH | O | 122 | 7AH | z |
| 037 | 25H | % | 080 | 50H | P | 123 | 7BH | { |
| 038 | 26H | & | 081 | 51H | Q | 124 | 7CH | | |
| 039 | 27H | ´ | 082 | 52H | R | 125 | 7DH | } |
| 040 | 28H | ( | 083 | 53H | S | 126 | 7EH | ~ |
| 041 | 29H | ) | 084 | 54H | T | 127 | 7FH | DEL |
| 042 | 2AH | * | 085 | 55H | U | | | |

Dec=decimal, Hex=hexadecimal (H), CHR=character.
LF=Line Feed, FF=Form Feed, CR=Carriage Return, DEL=Rubout